What is claimed is:

1. A method for issuing a certificate using biometric information in a public key infrastructure-based authentication system including a registration authority, a certificate authority and a user system, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a certificate issuance request message containing a user's reference number and biometric information sent from the user system under the condition that a user accesses the authentication system using the user system via the Internet to request a certificate issuance;

b) extracting the user's reference number and biometric information from the certificate issuance request message to authenticate the user in connection with the certificate issuance request;

c) determining whether the biometric information is the same as user's biometric information stored in a database storage unit in such a way as to be matched with the reference number under the condition that the user is registered as a member in the authentication system;

d) generating an authentication code of the user having requested the certificate issuance and providing the generated

authentication code to the user system; and

e) receiving a public key from the user system and issuing the certificate if the user system generates the public key.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step d) includes the steps of:

d1) receiving the authentication code from the authentication system and generating a private key and a public key; and

d2) sending the generated public key to a server of the certificate authority to be issued the certificate.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step e) includes the steps of:

e1) if receiving the public key at the step e), determining using the public key whether the private key has been normally generated to form a key pair with the public key under the condition that the private key corresponding to the public key is generated; and

e2) issuing the certificate if the private key has been normally generated.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the database storage unit includes:

a user information database for storing the reference number for the certificate issuance and user information under the condition that the user is registered as a member in the authentication system; and

a biometric information database for storing the biometric information of the user registered as the member, the user information and the biometric information being registered and stored in such a way as to be matched with each other.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the user system includes a biometric information input unit for inputting the biometric information of the user.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is information about a user's unique fingerprint.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information is information about a user's unique iris.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric information

is information about a user's unique face feature vector.